

The Sun.

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Responsive and Inconclusive.

Mr. TART characterizes the German note as "irresponsive and inconclusive." We should say, rather, that the reply was responsive and inconclusive. So far as the Lusitania is concerned, the German Government responds to President Wilson's demand that the lives of neutral American citizens shall not be put in jeopardy by the capture or destruction of an unarmed merchantman by alleging that the ship was "undoubtedly" armed. The reply, therefore, was responsive; for the fact as to the armament of the Lusitania is the crux of the question. The reply is inconclusive for the simple and plainly avowed reason that it was not intended to be conclusive; and the circumstance that it is inconclusive and not conclusive leaves room for a peaceful adjustment, honorable to both parties. In case Germany finds that she was misinformed with regard to the status of the Lusitania, if she cannot be convinced, or declines to admit the force of evidence that in any other case would be regarded as decisive, then the matter becomes serious, to ourselves and to her. It is for Germany to say, after the President's rejoinder has gone over to Berlin.

A personal interview between the President and the German Ambassador is set for today at the request of the latter. In that talk, which is sure to be both friendly and frankly firm: in the possibility that well informed American citizens of German birth or German subjects residing here and familiar with marine conditions may have succeeded already in persuading Berlin that the Lusitania carried no cannon; and in the central fact that the Von Jagow note was inconclusive, rests the chance of that continued peace between the United States and Germany which is so earnestly desired by a republic ready, nevertheless, to meet the alternative if need be in defense of its rights on the seas.

Don't Make Voting More Difficult.

In the campaign to make more difficult the task of the citizen who wants to vote, the Honest Ballot Association appears to-day before the committee on suffrage of the Constitutional Convention to advocate spring registration, 175 days residence in the county and election district, instead of four months and thirty days respectively as is now required, and a system of transfers to accommodate persons on the poll lists who may change their domiciles on October 1. It is urged that the spring registration would permit more complete investigation of the would-be voters.

The new restrictions are declared to be necessary because it is contended that "the present system does not give sufficient opportunities for the authorities to detect election crooks, who, it is said, often subvert the will of the qualified electors in a district." Yet we have an organization to protect the purity of the ballot which enlists the workers of all the political parties, each anxious to detect and frustrate the misdeeds of the others, every sheriff and district attorney in the State, the police of every city, town, and village, the bipartisan boards of election, special machinery provided by the State, a number of powerful private societies, and all honest citizens. Has the co-operation of all these forces failed generally to produce fair elections?

In certain notorious instances, it is true that ballot boxes have been stuffed, elections intimidated, and serious crimes committed to thwart the will of the people. The very convention to which appeal for new regulations is now made was approved by the people at an election which in certain districts was shown to be dishonest. But these incidents do not prove that all elections are

unfair, or that the present system has broken down, creating a condition which calls for heroic remedy. It is at least questionable whether spring registration, undertaken now on campaign in progress, would result in getting as large a proportion of eligible citizens on the poll list as registration in the autumn, when the struggle for office is hot. We may be sure that the dependable voters, would be got out; but the independent elector might not remember the necessity of preparing for a contest not yet begun. Moreover, is the hardship of inquiring into the poll list in the period now elapsing between the close of registration and the opening of the polls as great as it is represented to be?

So far as the requirement of 175 days residence in the district is concerned the Association recognizes the injustice which would result from disfranchising those who happened to change their domiciles on October 1, a practice common in this city and proposes to prevent it by allowing transfers from one district to another. This transfer scheme is a confession that the 175 days district residence plan is non-essential. Why then should it be incorporated in the Constitution? The length of time a man must live in a county, now fixed at four months, is perhaps of minor consequence; yet with respect of this, why should a resident of Buffalo lose the right to vote for Governor by moving to Binghamton in July, when he forfeits no privilege if he moves in April?

We are convinced that the existing arrangement works about as well as any which has been suggested. It has the great recommendation of familiarity. It brings the acts of registration and enrolment close to election, when everybody is informed about and interested in the political contest. Its advantages are manifest, and the design to alter it, based on an exaggerated notion of the importance of the occasional frauds committed at the polls, holds no promise of bettering conditions that outweighs the manifold and manifest objections to it.

Dr. Usher's Theory and Delusion.

It takes the professors to strike the note of nonsense in these turbulent times. For example, there is Professor ROLAND G. USHER of Washington University out in Missouri, who won a rather sudden publicity after the outbreak of the war because of an ante-bellum book in which he had digested German propaganda in recent years in a fashion that seemed to throw some light on the fateful developments in Europe beginning last summer.

On the strength of this volume Professor USHER has been consulted more or less frequently during the past few months by newspaper interviewers apparently anxious for his up to date opinion on current events. As a result he has just uttered himself on our relations with Germany and has set the seal of his professorial approval on one of the most grotesque and withal dangerous absurdities which have been promulgated for popular consumption.

Professor USHER says in substance that if the United States were drawn into a state of belligerency with Germany the effect would be to cut off the Allies against Germany from munitions of war. He argues that Germany might so define its policy of military necessity that it would see advantage in forcing this country to abandon its neutrality because our Government would then proceed to prepare for military eventualities, and in doing so would "keep all our munitions at home." He deduces that unless the American people want the Germans to win they will not allow Germany to draw them into the war.

Premising that our national policy is not guided at Washington by a desire to have victory incline one side or the other in the European war, and disregarding the assumption that anybody here can forecast the Berlin interpretation of military necessity, the core of Professor USHER's argument is arrant nonsense. Somebody set the notion in circulation a while ago that if the United States were drawn into the war the business which the country is doing in war supplies would stop because our own Government would need all the military materials we could produce. Presumably the inventor of the notion had some ultimate objective, but it is more foolish to-day when Professor USHER indorses it than when it was first projected; and it was foolish enough then.

What are the facts? The answer is given by the proof already furnished of the enormous adaptability of American industry for the production of supplies to meet any kind of demand. The proportions to which war business has grown here in response to what is for us simply an economic opportunity are evidence that under the pressure of military necessity applied to ourselves it would become colossal.

How many industrial plants are there the owners of which have refused to make war contracts because of some scruple or conviction? Probably there are enough of them alone to take care of all the requirements of the United States in the event of a state of war and leave the present war contractors free to go ahead with their foreign deliveries. In addition to that there is a vast number of manufacturing concerns, so far unable to obtain contracts for war supplies, which could be converted as readily to the production of war munitions as any now operating or expecting to operate in such production.

Furthermore, it is the most obvious thing in the world that if the United States should be driven by

Germany into the position of a belligerent, warfare for us must inevitably be chiefly a warfare of economic activities. We could only slowly extemporize armies and an increase of the navy. We could with terrific rapidity extemporize the equipment for producing war supplies; and the greatest contribution that we could make to the defeat of Germany would be in the provision of arms, ammunition and other materials to the Allies against Germany.

Under such circumstances war business for American industry would not be merely a matter of business. It would be economic activity keyed up to the highest pitch by patriotic incentives. Instead of our exports of war munitions being shut off because we had become a belligerent they would be trebled or quadrupled, and still we would have enough for ourselves.

Possibly the argument which Professor USHER now supports was advanced for the purpose of holding national policy to one of neutrality. As an argument for keeping the United States at peace it dangerously leaves much to be desired if the preservation of peace is dependent on German conceptions of the consequences of belligerency as illustrated by the argument in question. Germany is far more likely to meet our assertion of the rights of neutrals in accordance with the principles of humanity established by civilization if she realizes what it would mean to have the stupendous economic power of the United States enlisted against her, a power almost incredible measured in financial terms and practically limitless in respect to resources for the production of munitions of war.

A New Task.

The social investigators who have the resorts on Broadway under temporary surveillance are right when they proclaim that the present situation is new in the annals of social vice in this city. It has never before been the task of the police or other observers of public manners to regulate afternoon diversions.

In all previous investigations of this character it never seemed necessary to look for the temptations that might fall in the way of the innocent, afternoons. It could reasonably be presumed that any girl who sought entertainment in a public place of bad reputation after 10 o'clock at night had set out with the deliberate intention of enjoying herself whatever the consequences might be. It was to save such victims in spite of themselves that rescue work in such resorts used to be attempted.

But what of the young girl who may find herself in just such danger at an hour in the day when she may with perfect propriety be out of her home? It is reasonable that she might be in a restaurant or a tea house with dancing and not be in any danger before the time has come for her to go home for the evening. It takes a knowledge of the exact situation to understand that a young woman, especially some of those very young ones who frequent the places at which afternoon dancing is to be enjoyed, may be in more danger than a more sophisticated one who sets out at 11 P. M. in search of pleasure.

So parents do not naturally visit with the same apprehension visits to the afternoon tea rooms where the dancing is the chief attraction. Girls may without unreasonable tyranny be kept home at night. But in the daylight they are presumably free within certain limits. It is that freedom which has made the afternoon dancing such a real menace and such an easy opportunity to the men who lie in wait for them.

This is the new problem which faces the social investigators; and they are going to find their task more difficult than any in the past. Formerly it was possible to find in this or that well known resort the source of evil communications. But the present situation is more complicated, since the afternoon dancing may be just as far reaching in its evil effects as the night life, and by facts even when there is every circumstance to impart an appearance of comparative propriety.

Vox Populi.

If the voice of the people be, as the Latins have it, the voice of God, the danger apprehended by Borough President MARKS for his wise project of floating baths of fresh flowing Croton water for the borough is groundless. At the hearing upon an appropriation of \$22,000 for six floating baths before the Board of Estimate, held last Friday, a call for opponents was responded to only by a representative of the Board of Health, who demanded that the baths be free from disease producing agencies.

After President MARKS had expressed absolute reliance upon the Board of Health in this important matter no other voice was raised in opposition, but many rose to approve energetically the ingenious plan of the borough administration to obviate danger from polluted river water without depriving the bathers of the only refreshment open to them during the summer. The argument in favor of the floating baths was opened by the president of the American Association for Promoting Hygiene and Public Baths, which had already sent a resolution unanimously favoring them.

He urged that it would be false economy to refuse this small appropriation for affording the working people opportunity to refresh themselves with a cold plunge or swim. Passing over the hucknory arguments of bathing for health, he stated that sunstroke produced great mortality in this city than anywhere else in the world, and that this disease would be largely prevented through

increase of the resistance of the body by contact with cold water. Pouring Croton water over patients suffering from sunstroke being the most successful treatment in the most desperate cases, it also proves the most valuable preventive.

If only one-fourth of the average of 287 deaths from this cause occurring annually in this city were saved, the borough would be a thousandfold compensated, by the saving of hospital and funeral expenses, for the small outlay requested by the Borough President. Moreover, the increased efficiency known to be imparted by the cold plunging would be of financial benefit to employers also. A representative of the Life Saving Corps urged the value of instruction in swimming.

Another warm advocate was the chief of school recreation centres, who read the testimony of school teachers to the strengthening and brightening value of baths. Others spoke feelingly on the subject, among them piping voices of boys and girls who came with delegations from their schools to pray for this relief from the summer heat and for the joy of a swim in the open air. There were present large taxpayers, too, one of the speakers being a man who together with his immediate family pays annually nearly one-half of the appropriation asked for in taxes.

To the man in the street the Borough President's anxiety appears like that of the parent who fears to trust his child to the winds. For the second time Mr. MARKS has had the final vote deferred to next Friday. It does not seem possible that there can be a member of this board so unmindful of the unanimous voice of the people and the press and of common sense as to defeat this small appropriation for floating baths.

Nearly every newspaper in New York, in reporting the occupation of Cuba by Italian troops, has described that elevated and celebrated town as "an important railroad junction," the principal railroad "being that from Pieve di Cadore which leads to Toblach along the Drave Valley." Those familiar with the Ampezzo region will know the interest with which the worthy inhabitants of Cortina watch the trains coming in on the various lines centering there.

It is a happiness to know that those three handsome, amiable and prosperous Italian troops, who were described as "an important railroad junction," the principal railroad "being that from Pieve di Cadore which leads to Toblach along the Drave Valley." Those familiar with the Ampezzo region will know the interest with which the worthy inhabitants of Cortina watch the trains coming in on the various lines centering there.

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FARMER MURPHY.

"Harris" Azeala His Ardent Cry: "Immigration Must Be Stopped."

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—I read Dr. Abraham Jacob's zealous argument in favor of controlling and preventing foreign immigration, and I am sure that all patriotic Americans are very willing that that kind of "culture" be applied to this country. I should like to know if Dr. Jacob is a member of the liberal immigration society. I understand that such societies are now making special preparations to receive an unusually large number of immigrants after the war.

It seems strange to hear Dr. Jacob talk about poverty and underfeeding in this land, which the liberal immigration societies represent as a land of opportunity and plenty for all. I say, can maintain in plenty and comfort 2,000,000,000 people, more than the entire population of the globe.

Dr. Jacob's argument is a remarkable anxiety lest some might be born who would not be able to work. I should like to ask him, what is the matter with the hundreds of thousands of unemployed men and women in New York city? Are they not able and willing to do work if they could get it? Does he know of any part of the country where there is not a surplus of workers?

There are a score of agencies in this country at work to effect a reduction of the native population for the purpose of making room for more foreigners. I am an advocate, is one of them. I could mention a dozen others. It was to head off such movements as these that the United States was not in our inner consciousness, admit that the brightly, prancing military band-chimes better with our sense of fitness than the dirge of the immigrant. And by "stringing" I don't refer specifically to the instruments.

O ye musicians, follow the example of clean workmanship in general. Trust rather to the "tout ensemble" than to the contrasty effect of genius wedded to greatness. You don't have to be a hobnob to render sweet music on an orchestra.

JOHN WORTHY.

New York, June 1.

Guy de Vere.

A more unselfish, kinder and youth

The typical could not discuss

Than was Abilish Brown, in truth,

He was a Jonah, plus!

When but a babe in arms he fell

And broke his precious nose!

And to the drums of war he fell

Cut off two pretty toes.

A farmer peppered him with shot

While aiming at a hawk,

And his appendix went to pot

When he could scarcely walk.

He tried to swim and nearly drowned;

To ride, the nag was rude

And he was hurled upon the ground—

Three ribs to deaude.

When he arrived at man's estate,

No portion of his frame

But what had been the sport of fate

And lost out in the game.

His hair, they fairly made it curl;

These curls he struck and shook

A movie magnate, lucky churl,

Chanced on those wavy locks.

Now 'Bilish Brown is Guy de Vere,

A hero of the screen,

The critics say such lovely hair

Before was never seen.

BROOKLYN, June 1. J. W.

A THOUGHT FOR THE HOUR.

It Is Suggested That Mr. Wilson Should Now Decline a Second Term.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Few of us are unaware of the existence of a weak place in the framework of a republican form of government, the influence that party politics exerts in the conduct of foreign affairs. That party influence, of Webster's "Party politics should cease at the water's edge." But does it? To-day we see a cloud of war upon the horizon; while a campaign for the election of a President is going before long to open.

Our country is in crying need of first class submarines. The navy has other needs. Our army must surely be enlarged. We must prepare for war. Congressman Gardner is right. He has been doing a splendid work. I am not one of those who declare that his "shameless awe" kept up for political effect. Life has been animated, in my opinion, by a high purpose. The country cannot be too grateful for his foresight, his courage and his persistent vigilance.

Congress should be called together. The people do not want speeches; they do not want fault finding with the Administration, or talking to task this or that public official. What they do want is a speedy and wise action to replenish the Treasury, and to make our army and our navy what they should be. The people want the representatives in Congress to stand united behind the President.

How can this most desirable state of affairs be brought about? One way is open. At first glance, it may seem to be entirely impracticable. I am not so sure, though, that it may not be within the range of possibility. It is this:

A truly great opportunity offers itself to Woodrow Wilson. Were he to announce, in terms that admit of no doubt whatever, that he will not consent to be a candidate for re-election, he could easily be regarded by both parties to lay aside political discussion, and attend strictly to the task of getting the country into fighting trim. President Wilson would gain an immeasurable reward by so patriotic a course. Men, irrespective of party, would rally to his support. The good he could then do to his country would win for him a rank among the Presidents next only to that of Washington and of Lincoln.

With conditions in Mexico to meet, and with the German situation to face, he could easily be regarded by both parties to lay aside political discussion, and attend strictly to the task of getting the country into fighting trim. President Wilson would gain an immeasurable reward by so patriotic a course. Men, irrespective of party, would rally to his support. The good he could then do to his country would win for him a rank among the Presidents next only to that of Washington and of Lincoln.

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THE MEANS OF PEACE.

Stop Selling War Material and Let Germany Conquer.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Do not we Americans, as a humane and neutral nation, desire to end this fearful war? Do we not wish to stop the deluge of blood on the battlefields of Europe, the loss of life in the English Channel, the bombardments and the valley of the Euphrates? Think of the daily horrors, not only to those who perish in the hall of slaughter, or by the lightning stroke of bayonet or amid the stifling fumes of gas, or the strangling of impetuous waters, but to the living, those waiting for word of loved ones on shore or in hospital, those hearing the fatal news at last. Does not humanity, Christianity demand that we American people, what we can to end this awful strife?

Now consider that if we cannot end this European war at once we can assure a comparatively early ending of it. The United States has a vast store of munitions and all articles possibly available for use in hostilities to the nations fighting the German-Austro-Hungarian-Turkish alliance. I will show you how this would accomplish the end of peace.

Germany cannot be conquered; the Germans themselves say so. And if Germany cannot be conquered neither can the United States be. Germany has piled up two or three years supply of ammunition and raw material for several more years of manufacture, in anticipation of a successful attack on their own. Germany has occupied already French and Belgian territory which, if she were undisturbed, could be utilized for the production of munitions. Germany has a vast store of munitions and all articles possibly available for use in hostilities to the nations fighting the German-Austro-Hungarian-Turkish alliance. I will show you how this would accomplish the end of peace.

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U. S. JUDGES' PAROLE POWER ATTACKED. BUS BIDDERS OFFER THREE CENT FARES.

Attorney-General Seeks Supreme Court Writ Against Jurist in Ohio.

Trif of Competitors After Transportation Franchise for Manhattan.

GUILTY BANKER INVOLVED.

WASHINGTON, June 1.—The Supreme Court disposed of only fifty cases to-day and adjourned until June 14. There will be only two more "opinion days" in the present term, and it is expected that they will see the disposition of the International Harvester case and many of the other important matters now under advisement.

A decision of special importance was the granting of a rule against United States District Judge John M. Killeeta of Toledo requiring him to show cause why a writ of mandamus should not issue at the request of the Attorney-General of the United States compelling him to revoke his order suspending sentence in the case of James Henahan, a banker.

Henahan upon a plea of guilty was sentenced to prison by Judge Killeeta, who then at once entered an order suspending sentence indefinitely. Repeated efforts of the Attorney-General's office to induce the Judge to revoke the order met with his obstruction. The clerk of the court also refused to issue an order of commitment, acting on the orders of the Judge.

Not an Isolated Case.

The case does not stand alone. Other Federal Judges have exercised their discretion in suspending indefinitely sentences of prisoners and have set in motion the whole system of their own. The Attorney-General, anxious to have the question of their power to do so finally settled, applied for leave to file writs of mandamus against Judge Killeeta, and the Supreme Court as a result has entered an order upon the Judge to show cause before October 12 next why he should not include the right to suspend sentences in his list of powers.

The court upheld the validity